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RE: Letter of Support for HB 1131 (Lopez)

Dear Chair Bartlett and Vice Chair Davis,

All* Above All strongly supports HB 1131 and urges the legislature to adopt this measure as soon as possible to safeguard patients against pregnancy criminalization.

In the years following the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the U.S. has seen a substantial rise in pregnancy criminalization laws and prosecutions. Our partners at Pregnancy Justice [have noted over 400 cases](#) where pregnant individuals were charged with crimes related to their pregnancy, pregnancy loss, or birth.

This growing trend disproportionately impacts traditionally underserved populations, with more than three-quarters of the defendants being low-income individuals. The legal framework for these cases frequently relies on charges of child abuse, neglect, or endangerment, but in most all of these cases, prosecutors were not required to provide proof of actual harm to the fetus or infant to bring these charges.

This bill would prohibit the investigation, civil liability, and criminal prosecution for a pregnancy loss, unless there is independent evidence of criminal conduct unrelated to the pregnancy. The bill also makes clear that the loss of pregnancy is not by itself reason enough to investigate for any criminal conduct. Both providers and patients alike would be shielded from unwarranted pregnancy criminalization under this bill.

All* Above All is a reproductive justice organization that envisions a world where all people, regardless of their socioeconomic status, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or geographic location, have complete autonomy over their reproductive health. That means fighting back against pregnancy criminalization wherever it presents itself in the law.

The rise in fetal personhood language and draconian pregnancy criminalization in the U.S. should worry us all. Lawmakers across the country should be following the lead of bill sponsor Del. Lesley Lopez to ensure that their laws cannot be used as vehicles to prosecute and imprison patients and providers without cause.

True reproductive justice must ensure that every person has (1) the right to have a child, (2) the right not to have a child, and (3) the right to parent that child in a safe and healthy environment. This cannot be accomplished with the threat of pregnancy criminalization looming over us all, and it is why the legislature must adopt HB 1131 as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Lexi White
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All* Above All